

----- Original Message -----

Subject: BESB Consolidation

From: anne walsh <walsh7169@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Tue, March 01, 2011 11:49 am

To: appropriationstestimo@cgact.org

Cc: ilee@nfbct.org

To: Governor Daniel P. Malloy and Connecticut Legislators

I am a senior who has been legally blind for over two decades. During that time I have received valuable services from BESB. I think their present staff has acquired unique experiences that enable understanding of the challenges faced and the needs of people who live with varieties of limited vision and those who live with a total absence of useful sight.

Combining service entities would certainly incur initial costs. If you plan to split the functions of BESB with other services, that could disrupt managerial responsibilities and create a serious need for training of people who must absorb new information and understand the needs of categories of clients they had not previously encountered.

Do the BESB people continue doing what they did before? Will they take on a wider array of duties?

If duties are meshed there will be a need for lots of conferences and lots of training. Anticipated savings may not materialize.

You presently have managers with certain fields of experience. If consolidation occurs, wouldn't you need executives with broader ranges? Wouldn't it take time to develop or find such individuals?

Wouldn't that have a cost in dollars or in the cost of providing services? Jobs that take on expanded duties might require a higher pay grade.

In view of the above, consolidation could be a disappointment in regard to savings. What on the surface seems like a bright idea could, if acted upon, very likely become to be a lusterless fiasco.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Walsh,
11 Uncas Rd.
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-569-3998